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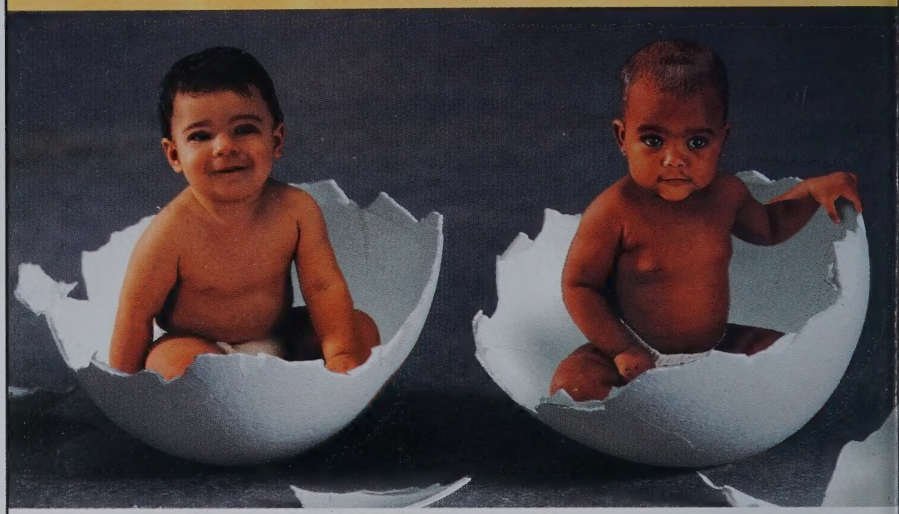

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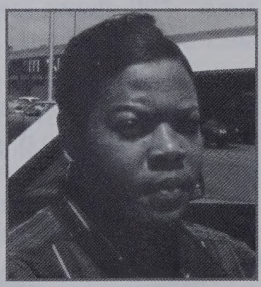

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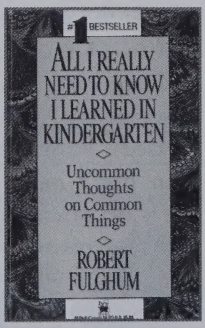


Book Review: All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten (page 8)

PUBLISHER'S PAGE

Vonretta Singleton

Do you remember this tune: "I'll always love my mama, she's my favorite girl. You only get one, you only get one yeah." How true that is. How blessed we are to have a mother who is warm and caring. A mother that would give her life if she had to to help her family. A mother who kisses bobos to help make us feel better. A mother who makes you stand up straight so you don't ruin your posture. A mother who is there for you when you hurt within. A mother's love!

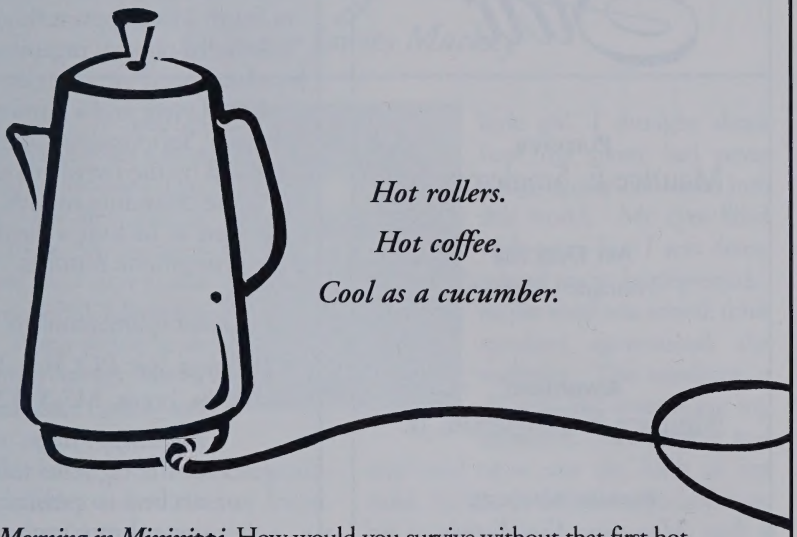
If you have a mother that fits this description then you are truly blessed. Remember, there are those who don't have a mother because she is deceased. God is the sunshine for the stormy weather. Trust in him and he will give you strength to make it.

And to those of you who have mothers but for some reason you are not speaking, you should really think about making the first move to a better life. You won't have to frown any more. You could be happy for a change.

And to those of you who would like to plan a special weekend with your mother or sisters or friends, I'm proud to announce that The Black Women's Expo will be held at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum & Convention Center, August the 27th weekend. There will be seminars, special guests, local and professional entertainment, and booths set up by local and national businesses.

This will be the first time The Expo has ever come to this area. It has been very successful in Chicago and Atlanta.

I hope to see you at The Expo. Take care of yourself, and continue to spread GOD's Love!



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Letters to the Publisher

should be 100 words or less.

Star Calendar: Events of interest to South Mississippians should be submitted on your organization's letterhead, specifying the date, time, place of event and a number of contact. Submissions should be received by the twentieth day of the preceding month. Be sure to include a daytime telephone number.

Mail submissions to

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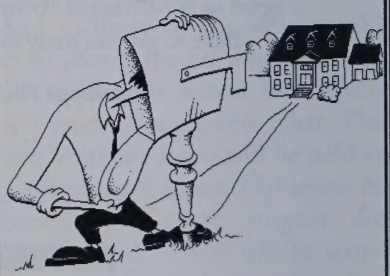

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SOMETHING TO PRAY ABOUT...

Behold Thy Mother!

by Stacy James Mackey

One day at church someone handed me a flyer to attend a Mother's Day brunch. My first instinct was not to go. My husband persuaded me that it would be a wonderful fellowship for me. Plus it would be an opportunity to get out of the house since I am a "stay at home mom" now. The flyer said bring your mother, grandmother, mother-in-law, sister or friend. My mother and grandmother are deceased; I only have a brother. And my mother-in-law lives far away.

Other than going alone, I decided that friend was my only avenue. I invited two girlfriends to go with me, but each had other plans. The day before the event, I decided to take my eleven-month old daughter with me. I was so glad I did!

I arrived at the hotel stressed and late, stepped into the ballroom and saw more than three hundred women there. Everyone seemed to be dining with their mother or grandmother. A very sinking feeling came over me. I sat at one of the few remaining empty seats. Four of my tablemates were related and the other lady's mom had flown in from Jamaica to spend Mother's Day with her. I clutched my daughter tightly as I viewed everyone's smiles. Oh, how I wished I could have spent that day with MY mother. As I looked into the eyes of my little girl, I thought about how my mom had never gotten to see her come into this world. My eyes filled with tears, but I was determined not to be depressed.

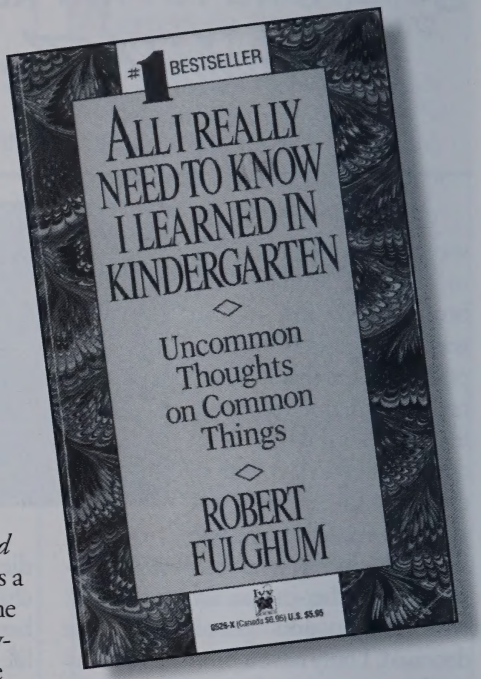
As the meal was served, three speakers entertained the audience. The words of a 35-year old woman got my attention. Her mother had died and never saw the birth of her child. As she shared, she explained how her mother-in-law had become such a life line for her once she allowed her to step into the role of her mother. I thought about my mother-in-law. Even though I love my husband's mom, I had never allowed her to really function in a mother-daughter relationship with me. I felt that she was too different from my mom and that it would never be the same. I listened to how God had allowed this mother-in-law to fulfill the much needed role in the speaker's life.

When I got home, I called my mother-in-law. We had the best conversation. I felt such a peace with her that I hadn't felt before. The banquet theme was "Behold Thy Mother" from John 19:27. In society, mother-in-laws are the brunt of a lot of bad jokes, but I encourage you to examine your relationships with the in-laws. You could be missing a blessing. I hope I have given you *Something To Pray About*

BOOK REVIEW

All I Really Need To Know I learned In Kindergarten

Author: Robert Fulghum



All I Really Need To Know I Learned In Kindergarten by Robert Fulghum is a humorous and pleasant account of one man's summation of the simple, everyday events and occurrences that make life fun and interesting. Fulghum shows simplicity of life through his daily experiences of observing children, interacting with coworkers, and performing chores like washing clothes – at home and at the laundromat when the washing machine and dryer "dies" or "expires."

I first read *Kindergarten* sometime back in the middle to late 1980s, however I found the lessons of *...Kindergarten* to be applicable and enjoyable reading once again.

What are the things Fulghum learned in Kindergarten?

"Share everything. Play fair. Don't hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess. Don't take things that aren't yours. Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody. Wash your hands before you eat. Flush. Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you. Live a balanced life – learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some. Take a nap every afternoon. When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands, and stick together. Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the Styrofoam cup: The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that. Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the Styrofoam cup-they all die. So do we."

All I Need To Know I Learned In Kindergarten is published in the United States by Ballantine Books, a division of Random House, Inc. The paperback version is available at local bookstores.

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DESIGNER TOUCH FLORIST AND WEDDING CONSULTANTS EXPANDS

Designer Touch Florist and Wedding Consultants celebrated its first anniversary with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at its new location in the Choctaw Shopping Center in Waveland. On hand for the celebration were Waveland Mayor Tommy Longo, Hancock County Chamber of Commerce President Amy Gregory and a host of other civic and community leaders.

"I was overwhelmed with the participation," said Ollie Oliver, Designer Touch Florist owner. "The people were really pleased with what they saw. I was pleased with everybody. I am thankful that the mayor and members of The Chamber took time out of their busy schedules to show their support."

Ollie Oliver Celebrates One Year Anniversary with a new location.

Ollie Oliver opened the doors to Designer Touch Florist and Wedding Consultants in March of 1998, in a new shop housed in her yard, however she has since moved to the larger location in a high-traffic area of Waveland because of the growth of her business.

"The first year was trial and error," Mrs. Oliver explained. "But it turned out to be a success. The progress of the business was greater than I ever anticipated. Within a year's time I was able to expand to the point that we were able to move to a larger building."

Designer Touch Florist and Wedding Consultants is an all-purpose florist. Mrs. Oliver has grown the business through networking in the community and building sound business relationships with various other businesses and churches.

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- Book Review:
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WOMEN: *Invest In Your Financial Future*

By Bridget Weatherly

Women today have more earning potential and career choices than ever before. Women represent 38 percent of the workforce and collectively earn more than $1 trillion annually, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Census. In fact, the Nation's Top 500 women-owned businesses generate $72 billion in revenue each year, according to a survey by the National Foundation for Women Business Owners published in *Working Woman Magazine.*

Whether you're a top executive, an entrepreneur, a stay-at-home mom or climbing the career ladder, learning to manage your money and investing for your retirement should be a priority. According to the Investment Company Institute, most women will be solely responsible for making investment decisions at some point in their lives.

The challenge of planning a secure financial future is particularly difficult for women. Women live longer and can expect to be retired about 25 percent longer than men.

However, despite these formidable challenges, women are typically not saving enough for retirement and are investing too conservatively – a trend that may ultimately undermine their financial security. Also, various research suggests that on average, single women will have less than one third of the annual income they need for a comfortable retirement, in large part because women save only 1.5 percent of their current income.

To prepare for a comfortable financial future, women need to save more of what they earn, begin saving earlier and take steps to help make their money grow. Here are some ideas:

- Educate yourself. The smart investor is the educated investor. Read, take time to meet with a financial consultant; attend investment seminars and search the internet to learn more about investing. Don't be afraid to ask questions.

- Assess your current financial situation. You need to have a clear picture of your financial standing. You can begin this process by looking at your household budget. This budget should detail income and expenses and outline your assets, long-term debts and current savings. It is also important to evaluate your investments with your financial consultant to determine if they continue to meet your financial needs.

- Determine your financial goals. Once you understand your current financial situation, determine your financial goal(s). What are you looking to achieve: Create a comfortable retirement, add to your current income, help with your family's intermediate costs, save for educational expenses, create a reserve fund? Make sure you take advantage of all your available investing options – such as 401(K), individual retirement account and company savings plan.

- Create a systematic investment plan. Pay yourself first by having a predetermined amount automatically deposited to your investment account each month. Consider it another monthly bill you have to pay. You should also periodically review your investments' progress and make sure you're still on track to reach your financial goal(s).

Too many times, women are first confronted with financial decisions during a crisis: divorce, illness or death of a spouse. By recognizing the importance of taking control of your financial future and learning how to do so, you can avoid making uninformed and hasty decisions that could dramatically affect your quality of life in the future.

Bridget Weatherly is an investment broker at A.G. Edwards, Member SIPC, in Gulfport, Mississippi.

Danelle McClellan Named Miss Tougaloo College

By Eric Labat

Danelle McClellan

On April 5, 1999, Danelle McClellan of Gulfport was named Miss Tougaloo College 1999-2000. For the talent portion of the pageant competition, Danelle performed a monologue entitled, ***Death Killed Me.*** The skit describes an eight year old girl who grows up and loses faith in God due to numerous deaths of people very close to her and because of that, she commits suicide. ..."How did you feel the last time someone you loved died? Never fight God, you'll always lose."

Danelle, a 1996 Gulfport High Honor graduate will be crowned Miss Tougaloo in a coronation ceremony in October during the Founders Week Celebration. While attending Gulfport High, Danelle was very active in various aspects of school and in her community. She was a member of the Flag Corps and played flute in the high school band. She served on the Senior Advisory Board and was a Gayfers Girl. She was crowned Miss *WHY* (Workers Helping Youth) 1996. She was a member of Morning Star Baptist Church where she was named Miss Sunday School and Miss BTU Congress in 1994.

Danelle recently completed her junior year at Tougaloo College where she is an English/Pre-Law major. She is also quite active at Tougaloo as well. She is a member of the Gamma Psi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. where she serves as the chapter's journalist. She was named Miss Delta 1998-99. She is a member of the Student Government Association and was the freshmen and junior class president.

Danelle has been a National Dean's List Scholar during the 1997-98 and 1998-99 school years and is a member of the Ruben V. Anderson Pre-Law Society. She has been identified as a Leader of Today, where she serves as a mentor for incoming freshmen at Tougaloo College. Danelle will be attending a weeklong leadership conference at Bowie State University in Maryland this summer and will represent Tougaloo in a fashion show on June 26, sponsored by Empower One Magazine in Jackson, Mississippi.

Danelle's future aspirations are "to become an attorney and later become a major political figure in order to help in the positive development of urban communities." Her motto on life is that "there's nothing God will put on me today that he and I cannot handle together tomorrow."

Danelle is supported 110% by her parents Frank and Cecile and her brothers Shabazz and Hakim. The father says of his daughter, "Words cannot express how pleased we are with her." Her mother says smiling proudly, "The epitome of a daughter."

A Victim Deals With the Pain of Murder

by Maurice E. Singleton, Jr.

Crystal Nash dozed lightly waiting for her husband to return from the store with breakfast items. Crystal was tired after having spent the day in Bay St. Louis, visiting family members and getting her hair cut. She had declined her husband's offer to go out for breakfast when he returned from spending the day with friends in his hometown of Sorrento, Louisiana, but she offered to prepare breakfast for him when he returned from the grocery store. Raymond Nash never returned to the couple's Baton Rouge apartment. He was murdered within fifty yards of the apartment.

Crystal and Raymond Nash on their wedding day in 1994.

Raymond Nash died on April 26, 1996, the victim of a carjacking. In the three years since he was murdered his widow has sat through two trials – the second the result of a judge overturning a unanimous decision of guilty in the first. She has suffered with depression, remaining secluded from family members and friends for long periods of time. And she is seventy pounds heavier than she was in April of 1996.

She also monitored the police investigation, initially, after it appeared to her that the police department was treating her husband's murder like "just another dead black man," the probable result of a drug deal gone bad. But she would not let them dishonor her husband.

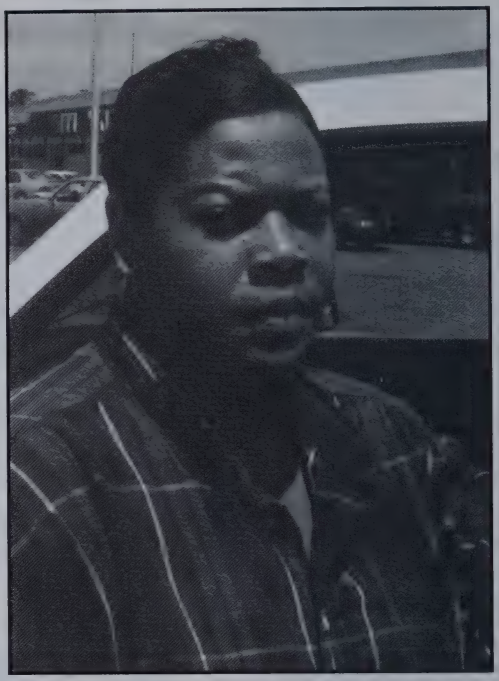
"I would have actually put my head on a chopping block to prove that my husband's murder was not affiliated with drugs," Crystal explained. "I can positively say, and there are records to prove that Raymond did not deal

drugs; and Raymond did not use drugs. Raymond was an honest man who worked everyday. This was just a senseless killing.

"Initially, police investigators did not believe robbery was a motive. The first thing they thought was my husband was a drug dealer."

An autopsy was performed on the body, and the tests of Raymond's body fluids came back negative for illicit drugs. At that point, Crystal felt she gained full cooperation of the police department.

"I had one police officer that I felt was really on my side. That man never left my side as far as doing the police work, doing his job, in a sense, not making any judgement at all. He looked at the case as "I have a dead man here, and I've got some murderers out there."



Crystal Nash continues to deal with the pain of the senseless killing of her husband. The truck behind was the primary target of the armed robbers.

The police department arrested the murderer on January 30, 1997, ten months after the crime. Kawatta Deon Bosby, 19 at the time, was booked around midnight; and Crystal was notified immediately. And Detective Shane Evans, the one officer who had been there for her, was involved in the bookings.

Bosby was convicted of second degree murder and attempted robbery in a unanimous decision of guilty. Louisiana holds a mandatory life sentence with a second degree murder. He was to be sentenced sixty days later. Crystal and her family returned to court in February of 1998 for the sentencing. On that day, Crystal was supposed to be given the chance to speak with her husband's murderer.

"As we were getting reading to speak with the murderer," Crystal recalled, "the defendant's attorney asked the judge if they could approach the bench. The defense attorney asked for an appeal, and he was granted the appeal."

At the point, Crystal felt like the wind was knocked out of her. She could not believe what had happened.

"Why she would overturn a unanimous verdict, I will never figure out," said Crystal. "It was like we had no

rights. Everything was in favor of the criminal."

Bosby was convicted of second degree murder and attempted armed robbery in the second trial on March 19 of this year. On March 23, he was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Crystal never got her chance to speak with her husband's killer. Judge Bonnie Jackson advised her to speak with her instead because she felt there was too much animosity. Crystal heeded Judge Jackson's advice, and she shared concerns she had with the way the Judge had handled the case, particularly one comment in her instructions to the jury. After telling the jury not to watch the news on television or read the newspapers, Crystal remembered the Judge saying, "...although it probably won't be on the news anyway."

"I told her that to me, the case was very unimportant to her. I understood that she had to inform the jury that they should not listen to the news or read the newspaper," Crystal explained. "But the last comment telling the jury that it 'probably wasn't going to be on the news anyway,' insinuated to me that Raymond Nash wasn't important. The case wasn't important, and that he was just another dead black man.

"I didn't expect anything from her because she was a woman," Crystal added. "I didn't expect anything from her because she was black. I only expected justice to be served."

The trial is over, with an apparent victory of sorts for the prosecutors, but there is no sign of victory surrounding Crystal. Her companion of ten years and spouse for two years is gone. She no longer visits her husband's grave everyday since she has moved back to Bay St. Louis, but life for her still appears to be on hold.

"It's pretty much a day-by-day thing. Right now I am taking it one day at a time. I get up and make sure my kids get off to school okay, and then I go to school. Doing this I have been able to not be depressed all day," she said.

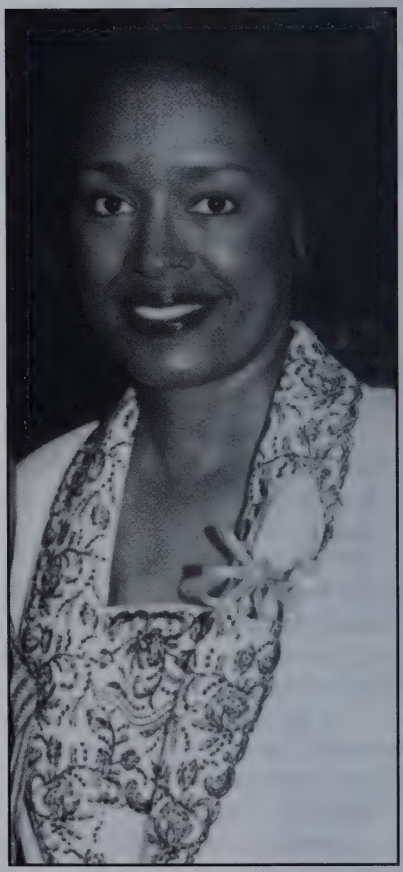
Crystal enrolled at Gulf Coast Community College this spring, studying core courses toward a pharmacy major she plans to finish at Xavier University in New Orleans. With the support of family, including a special cousin, Farren Washington, Crystal is beginning to plan and look forward to things again.

"My family has played a very, very important role in my recovery and my kids recovery," said Crystal. "Your mother and father usually teach you to know God and that God lives on the inside of you. Once you've been taught the right things to do, then you have a better outlook on life. Violence is the farthest thing from your mind. We should instill more in our children to have respect for all family members, from the eldest to the youngest. And knowing that each member's life is so very precious, because people who do not take heed to this fact will never know how precious a life is until they lose one."

When I met with Crystal on May 21, 1999, to interview her for this story, she informed me that this day marked the 1121st day since the death of her husband.

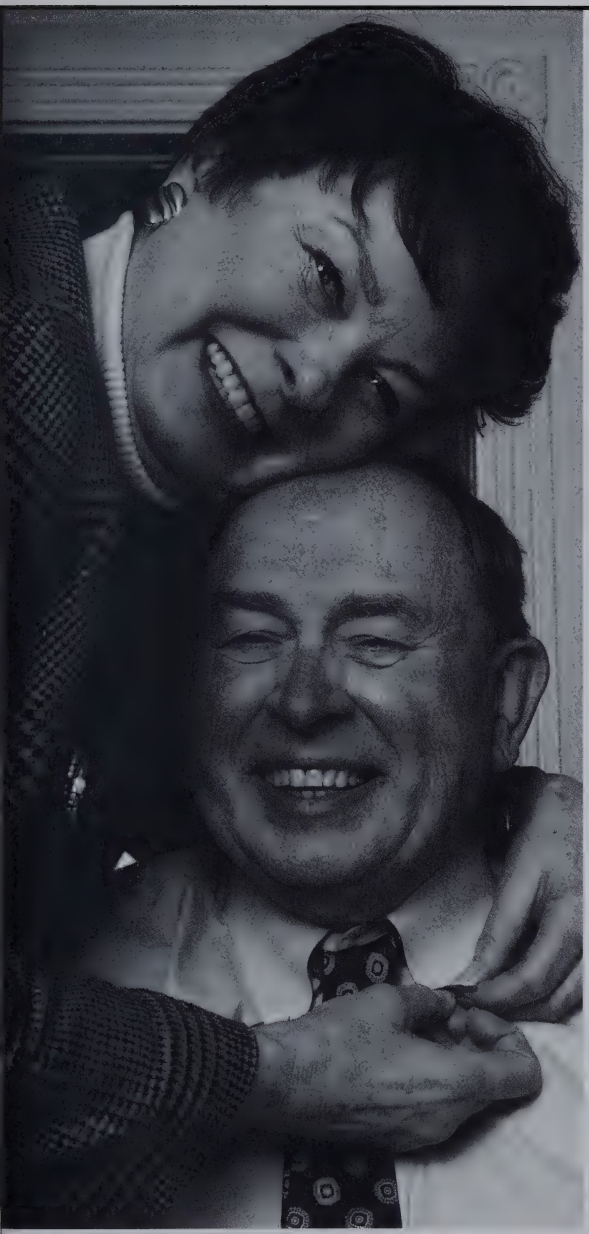
Breast Cancer: *Let's Talk More About It.*

By Sharon Singleton



The incidence of breast cancer is increasing in our society. Currently, about 180,000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer each year. About 43,000 women die from breast cancer each year. Do you know your risks? How would you deal with a diagnosis of breast cancer? What would you do? You don't really know? Well, I can tell you what I did because it happened to me.

In early 1998 I detected a lump, about the size of a small pea in my right breast during my monthly Breast Self Examination (BSE). It was hard, superficial, and on the nipple line in the upper outer breast. My first inclination was fear. I ignored the lump, there's no history of cancer in my family. Then the grown up in me kicked in and I scheduled an appointment with my doctor. She referred me for a mammogram which did not show the lump. However, a subsequent Ultrasound did. After consulting a



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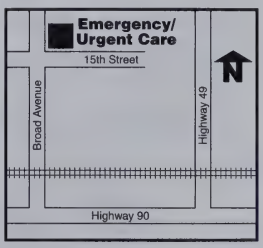

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surgeon I underwent a biopsy through outpatient surgery. Three days later my doctor called to say that the mass was cancerous. I went numb. Knowing that there are several different types of breast cancer, I hoped mine would be a less aggressive type. The only way to know the type and to know for certain if a solid lump is cancer is to have the tissue examined under a microscope.

Every woman is potentially at risk for developing breast cancer. Many of us underestimate our own risk. Risk increases with age; the older you get, the greater your risk of developing breast cancer.

Next, I prayed asking God for a positive outcome and to give me courage to get through my ordeal. After discussing my options with my surgeon, he recommended a Lumpectomy (surgical removal of the lump only) and Radiation Therapy which were acceptable to me. I had the Lumpectomy. Several weeks later, I consulted with the Radiologist and learned there may have been additional cancerous tissue which needed to be removed. My options were to have another Lumpectomy and Radiation Therapy or to have a Mastectomy (removal of the breasts). Well, as you can imagine, none of the choices seemed very appealing. However, when the Radiologist educated me on the risks of recurrence, about 13% after a Lumpectomy and Radiation Therapy versus about 1% after Mastectomy, the choice seemed clear to me. I chose the mastectomy. I wanted the best chance for cure.

In July, I underwent a Mastectomy and plastic surgery to "reconstruct" the breast. The reconstructive surgery followed the Mastectomy so that when I awakened after surgery, to my surprise , I still had two breasts. While reconstructive surgery is not right for everyone, it made me look and feel normal. It looks like a real breast. The reconstructed breast was so appealing to me, it was hard to stop looking at my new breast. It was amazing! Plastic surgery is a modern marvel.

Every woman is potentially at risk for developing breast cancer. Many of us underestimate our own risk. Risk increases with age; the older you get, the greater your risk of developing breast cancer. According to the American Cancer Society, at age 25, 1 in 14,493

Early detection

and treatment can help save your life.

BREAST CANCER is the second major cause of cancer death in women. But early detection can help save your life.

Who is at risk?

Women in the following categories:

- Over 40 years of age
- A personal or family history of breast cancer
- Early onset of menstruation
- Late age of menopause
- Never had children (or late at first live birth)

What do I look for?

Breast changes that persist, such as a lump, thickening, swelling, dimpling, skin irritation, distortion, retraction, scaliness, pain or tenderness of the nipple are warning signals for breast cancer. If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, contact your physician immediately.

What should I do?

Perform monthly self-examinations, and make sure your doctor gives you a breast examination once a year. Mammography can detect breast cancer up to two years before you or your doctor can feel a lump. So, once you turn 40, have a mammogram every year.

For more information or a physician referral call:

865-DOCS (3627)

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Breast cancer presents crisis for the entire family, but it also presents opportunities to pull families closer together. Sharon and her daughter Torrie (left) and with her husband Jimmy Carter (right).

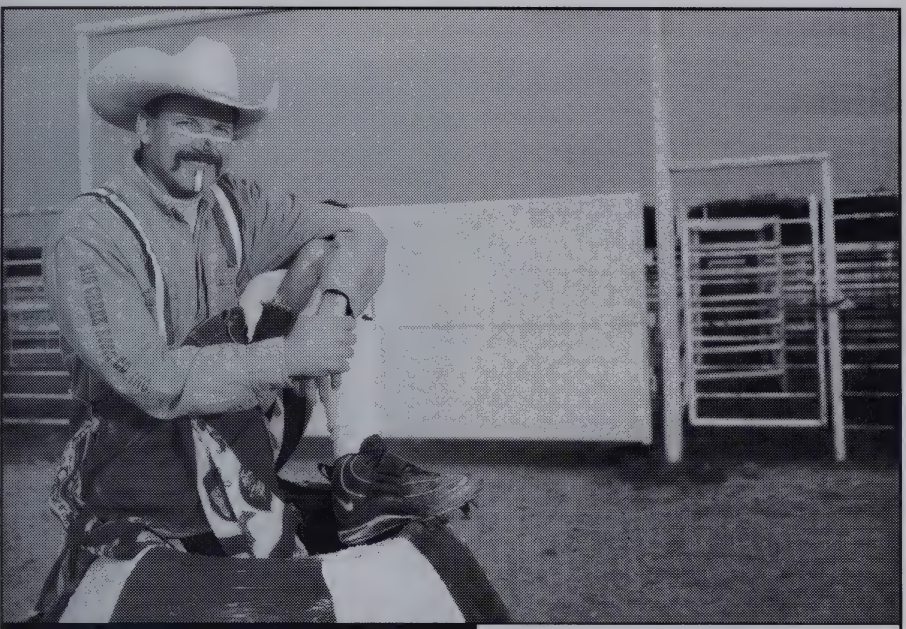
women will develop breast cancer. At age 35, 1 in 641 women will develop breast cancer. At age 45, 1 in 102 women will develop breast cancer. At age 55, 1 in 33 women will develop breast cancer. At age 65, 1 in 19 women will develop breast cancer At age 75, 1 in 11 women will develop breast cancer. At age 85, 1 in 9 women will develop breast cancer. Overall, 1 in every 8 women will develop breast cancer in her lifetime.

Though many of us believe there needs to be a family history of breast cancer, 80% of women who get breast cancer have no family history for breast cancer. And, less than 10% of women who get breast cancer have the gene that indicates susceptibility to breast cancer.

What can you do?

First, maintain an open mind, a positive attitude, and talk openly about awareness, risk factors and therapies. Awareness helps to decrease fears. Learn about resources available to you. Obtain information from the American Cancer Society, the National Cancer Institute, your local library and other sources.

Second, know your risk factors. Do you know what your risk factors are? Only by knowing factors that put you at risk can you change



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them. Until we know the causes and how to prevent breast cancer altogether, we are encouraged to live healthy lives. Eat a nutritious and well balanced diet, exercise regularly, decrease stress, and get regular check-ups. If you smoke, quit. Talk to your doctor about other risk factors you may have.

Third, have routine mammograms (x-ray pictures of the breasts). A mammogram is a simple procedure which takes only minutes. Because a mammogram can detect a tiny breast mass 2 years before it can be felt, a mammogram may save your life. Tell your doctor you want to discuss mammography; don't wait for the doctor to recommend. Get a baseline mammogram about age 35 or as your doctor recommends. If you're over 40 years, make an appointment for mammogram today and have one every one to two years as recommended by your doctor. If you are 50 years or over, your doctor may recommend a mammogram every year.

Fourth, a physical breast exam by a nurse or doctor is a must. It may be convenient to schedule the breast exam as part of your yearly physical exam or at the time of your yearly gynecologic exam. Because some masses do not show up on mammogram, it's not sufficient to just have a mammogram; a breast exam by a nurse or doctor can detect masses missed on mammogram, such as in my case.

Fifth, perform monthly BSE

(Breast Self Examination). Make a habit of examining your breasts once a month. In fact, most women find their own breast tumors and at an earlier stage than doctors detect them. If you practice BSE you will become familiar with your own breasts and know what is normal for you. If a change occurs, you will quickly recognize it. You are looking for lumps or thickening that feel different from the rest of your breast. To learn how to perform BSE get a guide from your doctor and ask your doctor to teach you how to perform BSE.

Sixth, if diagnosed, consider therapy/counseling to deal with the emotional consequences of breast cancer. I did, and it proved to be a most beneficial choice. My thera-

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pist too is a breast cancer survivor. After she shared that bit of her history with me, I knew that she truly understood. She helped me to explore my fears and to confront them. It's so hard to talk about fears, body image concerns and sense of family anguish with family members when they are hurting right along with you. One of the most difficult parts of having breast cancer was telling my daughter of my diagnosis. As a mother, my inclination was to protect her from the pain and sense of loss I felt. I had not come to terms with that myself. How could I tell her?

Seventh, support breast cancer research. Call the American Cancer Society in your area and send a donation to help fund breast cancer research. You may like to purchase United States Postage stamps that help to fund breast cancer research; ask for the stamp at your local post office. Participate in organized activities which help to fund breast cancer research.

Because there is no identified cause of breast cancer and increased incidence of breast cancer, there is great concern. However, there is no reason for alarm. There is much information available to increase awareness. And, there has been significant progress in technological advances in detection and treatment. Those advances offer women more options than ever before. And most importantly, survival rates have increased.

It is likely that each of us would react differently to a diagnosis of breast cancer, it's difficult to say exactly how you would handle hearing such a diagnosis. You would probably react in much the same way that you've reacted to past crises. With increased awareness you just may have less fears and less anguish.

Of greatest significance for me was the huge outpouring of love and support I received from family and friends. My husband Jimmy, my daughter Torrie and my niece Monique saw me through the most difficult times. Friends and family reached out to me daily. That trying ordeal taught me a lot about what is really important in life. I'm most grateful to all who were there for me and who continue to express their concern for me. Their support really aided my recovery. My prayers were answered.

While I hope that none of you ever have to experience breast cancer, by sharing my story with you, I hope you will know that there is hope and that you can survive a diagnosis of breast cancer. Others may not feel comfortable talking about breast cancer; however, I tend to be more open to talking about my ordeal.

Remember, breast cancer can be treated with the greatest success when it is found and treated early. For that, you alone hold the key.

Sharon Singleton, R.N., M.N., is an Occupational Health Nurse employed with the U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

The Black Women's Expo Comes To The Mississippi Gulf Coast!

Hailed as one of the nation's premier expositions, Chicago's Expo for Today's Black Woman, under its touring title, The Black Women's Expo, will visit Biloxi this Summer. Recognized as a vehicle for honoring the achievements of African American women, The Black Women's Expo (TBWE) features empowering seminars, appearances by best selling authors, performances by national recording artists, networking opportunities, and forums where hundreds of businesses can showcase their products and services. The first of what will undoubtedly become an annual event, is scheduled for August 27 - 29, 1999 at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center.

Merry Green

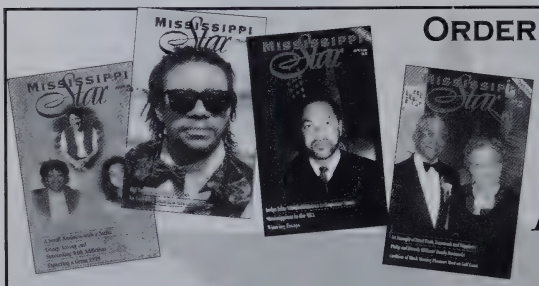
In making the announcement, Merry Green, executive producer of TBWE, says her mission is to uplift and inspire African American women. As creator of the Expo started in Chicago seven years ago, Green adds that TBWE will bring women together to celebrate and explore motherhood, relationships, spirituality and economics, all issues that are vital to African American women.

TBWE has already proven its power to bring women together as indicated by the nearly 200 women that convened in a strong force of unity to volunteer for the Black Women's Expo

Advisory Panel. "They represent women from all walks of life that have committed their time, effort and support in making TBWE a success in Biloxi," says Green. The Panel is comprised of eight committees that will assist in spreading the word, soliciting participation and giving it that Southern flare.

TBWE will kick-off with a Gala Affair where honors will be awarded to local phenomenal African American women who have made significant community achievements. Lucimarian Roberts, former Director of the Federal Reserve Atlanta, resident of Biloxi and Pass Christian and honorary chairperson of TBWE Advisory Panel says, "There are many hard-working women in Mississippi and on the Gulf Coast who deserve to be recognized for their accomplishments. The Phenomenal Woman Award will pay tribute to local African American women who have juggled being wife, mother and career-oriented for many years." Roberts adds, "I am pleased that TBWE is coming to the Mississippi Gulf Coast and encourage all residents to embrace its efforts."

The Black Women's Expo is presented by Merry Green Promotions Group (Chicago). MGPG is a minority, female-owned and operated establishment. It is a full-service communications firm specializing in marketing and promotions, exposition management, public relations and special events planning and production. For more information about Merry Green Promotions Group and The Black Women's Expo, call 312-913-9334.



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NAACP Regularly Monthly Meetings

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Gulfport Branch
1st Monday
Isiah Fredericks
Community Center

Biloxi Branch
4th Thursday
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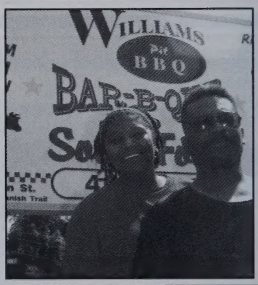

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